

# Operation COVID-19

a kid's guide to defeating aliens



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Franklin & Tariello

# kid's guide to defeating aliens operation covid-19

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Ilario & Serena Tariello

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the countless superheroes in this war.

The doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals.

The police and government officials working to keep us safe.

The priests/pastors who have laid down their lives to bless others.

The ones serving to keep groceries and prescriptions available.

The businesses that have stepped up to help.

The countless stories of people who are rising up in this moment  
to save our world.

It is our story, but it is your story, too.

And it is dedicated to you, young reader.

You can go down as one of the superheroes of this time, too.

If you choose to.



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to

Co-Author and Illustrator,  
Serena Tariello

Co-Author, Editor, Cover Creator. French Translator  
Anna Franklin

Thank you, Special Agents!

We couldn't have done it without your amazing talents!

You are both young superheroes!

And a special thanks to photographer Angela Urso.

YOU KNOW, DAD, MOM? WE HAVE TO STAY  
HIDDEN AT HOME. THIS WAY THE COVID WILL  
FIND NOBODY AROUND AND IT WILL GO AWAY!"

# 1-Operation COVID-ops

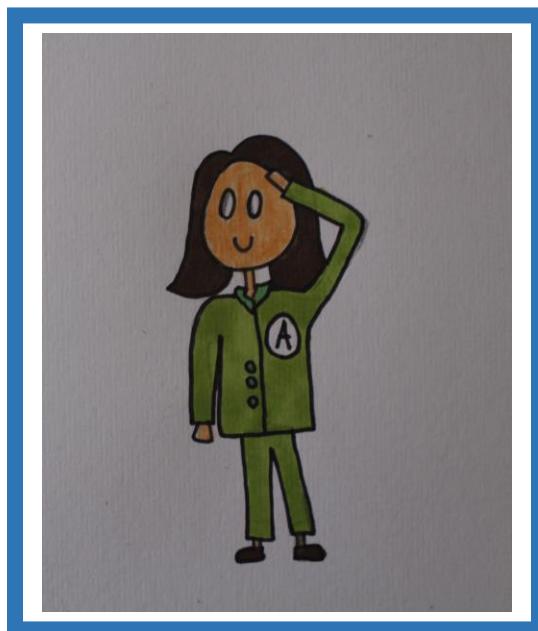
You are sitting in your secret base, waiting for an urgent message.

You go to a secret website and enter a secret code.

A message appears on your screen—

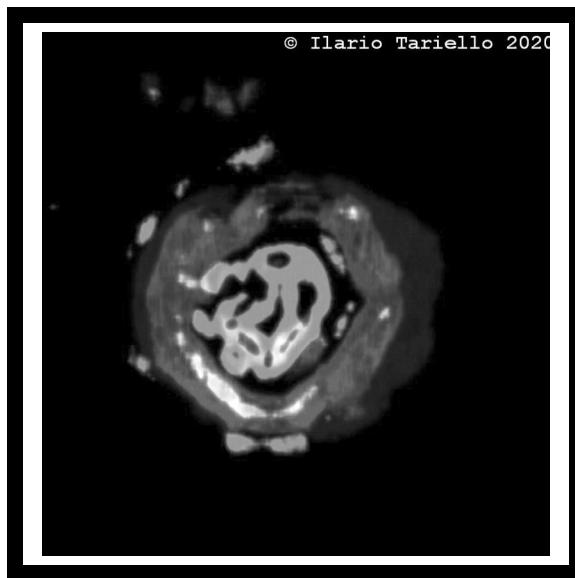
*YOU ARE CLEARED FOR  
COVID OPS TRAINING.*

Then, a young woman appears on your screen.



“Welcome!” she says. “I am Secret Agent Anna. You’ve been selected for a special mission. Let me explain!”

An alien-like creature appears on your screen.



“We have received reports that this virus species is invading Earth. We’ve never had one like this exactly before this one, so it is a brand-new war for all the people of the world. It is like an alien invasion!” she says.

“I’ve come to ask for your help. We are forming a special operations team to fight against this enemy.

This alien-like species is so small that you can’t see it, yet it can hurt many people.

This mission, if you choose to accept it, will help planet Earth win this war.”

You think about it. Do you want to fight in this war?

If you say yes, turn the page.



Anna begins to speak again.

“You might be thinking, “What is this alien virus invasion?” or “How can I fight aliens? I’m just a kid!”

Two of our top officers will answer your questions. Their names are Commander Tariello and Commander Franklin.

Commander Tariello is stationed in Italy, and his country is fighting a huge invasion right now. He created special tools on his computer to make images of this alien-like enemy so he can study it.

Let’s welcome Commander Tariello, or Commander T. He will tell you about the alien enemy and how we’re fighting against it.

Commander T appears on the screen.



“This is a picture of our enemy,” he says. “Its name is the Coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19. I created this image with a special tool.



“This alien-like virus is invading the world quickly. We believe it invaded China first, but it is invading the whole world now. The good news is that the virus needs people to spread it. We can control that by staying inside. That is our best defense right now, but we need you to help us win this war.

Scientists from all around the world are working hard to stop this invasion. They are trying to find a vaccine or medicine. I am trying to help them find the weaknesses in the virus using special tools to make computer images to see what they cannot see on a microscope.

Getting involved to help researchers in this war is the reason I wanted to write a book to tell you how important it is to do your part to help fight this. I asked my friend, Commander Liz, to help me get this important message to the world. Would you like to know how I started processing virus images?

My whole life, I have focused on two things: sound and sight.

Since I was a child, science has fascinated me. At school, I was good at it. But I was good at human sciences, also. I studied electronics at school, and I enjoyed playing with computers and musical instruments.

Through the years, I kept learning and growing. I have delivered amazing computer systems in so many industries, like music, video streaming, and military helicopters.

But I've never stopping thinking about sound and sight.

A famous Italian engineer, Leonardo Chiariglione, inspired me.

So, I went back to studying sound waves and light waves. I knew there was more in those waves than what you can see. So, I started taking images of special ways to change these waves. I created hundreds of programs to play with all those special changes.

You who have an interest in science might do special things like this as you study and grow. You never know when what you do can help others.

When the COVID-19 virus began invading China, scientists had trouble understanding how the virus attacks humans. I thought my images could help and they are helping!

I'm working with scientists, called virologists, who work in the special study of viruses. My pictures are a brand-new way to help them see in ways they could not before. I am working with two now and still finding others to help study our enemy. We hope we will find its weakness.

Our work is important, but it takes time. Until we find its weakness, it's very important that everyone—moms and dads, boys and girls, teenagers and grandparents—must learn how to stop this alien-like invasion.

You can be a big part of saving the world, just like I can. Please take this very important mission. People are in danger, but you can save them!

Thank you!"

You think about what Commander T told you.

It sounds interesting and helpful.

You know it is a very important mission.

Can you handle it?

You're just a kid, after all.

Or are you?

## 2 MINI HURRICANES

Agent Anna appears again.



“Next, Commander Franklin will answer any questions you may have about why we called you for this mission. She has enlisted special ops teams before. Welcome, Commander Franklin.”

Commander Franklin appears on the screen.



“Thank you for being here, future agent. Please just call me Commander Liz, or by my codename MamaLiz.

When Commander T talked to me about what he was doing to help in the fight against this alien-like virus to win this war and what people could do to help, I thought of you.

I've trained children and youth to do great things for many years. I know you hold a special part in helping all of us as we fight together. You may see yourself as small, but I do not see you that way.

When I look at you, I see power. I see potential inside you.

You might be thinking, "How can I fight? I'm just a kid."

I'm here to tell you, that's not true. I don't see you as "just a kid." I see greatness in you.

And with all of you working together, I see a mighty army. You are so powerful that you can change the course of history.

Age is just a number.

It doesn't matter how young you are.

You can fight just as well in this battle as a grown-up.

Instead, your thoughts are what stop you.

If a bumblebee listened to people who only look at it from the outside, it would not fly.

It is too heavy, and its wings are too small.

It shouldn't be able to fly.

But it does.

Its wings spin and create mini hurricanes to keep it in the air.

In the same way, you have a very big mission to carry out.

People just see your little wings.

But I see the mini hurricane that you can create to fly.

I need you. The world needs you right now.

Please take the mission and help us.

Thank you.”

### 3 COVID OPS ARMOR

Special Agent Anna appears on the screen again.



“Look outside.”

“Special Agent Serena is sending you a drone.

It holds a package with your armor and weapons.

She will show you what you need to fight.”



You look out your window.

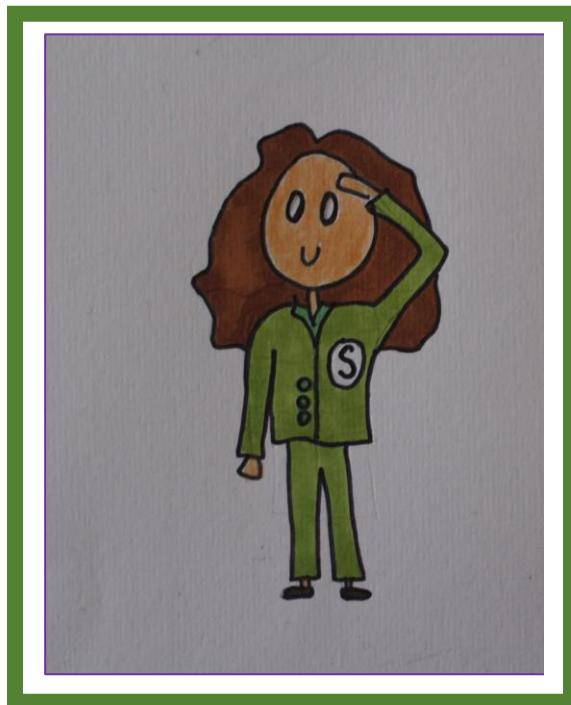
A drone flies down, carrying a package.

You open the window and get your package.

It's heavy, and you wonder what's inside.

Is there anything dangerous?

Special Agent Serena appears on the screen.



She smiles. "Hi, I'm Special Agent Serena.

My job is show you how we can fight this alien force.

First of all, you need weapons to be a might army.

This is a picture of a superhero in this war!

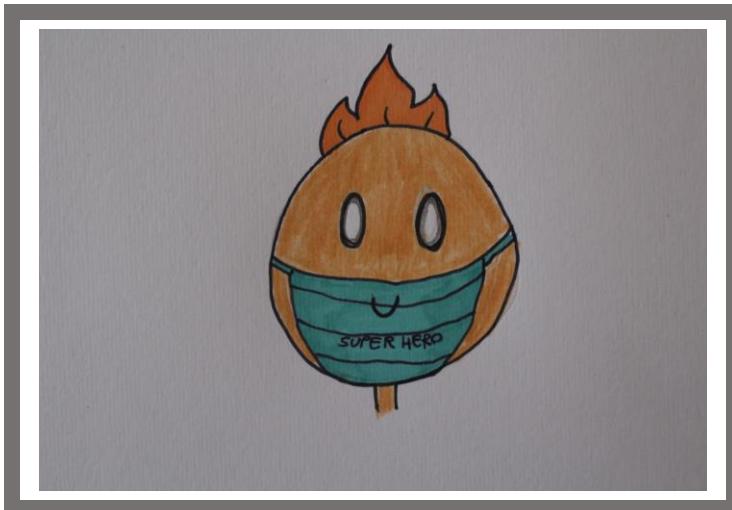


We have provided you with some soap and hand sanitizer. We will teach you how to use them properly to chase away the virus aliens who want to spread.

Then, we will clothe you with armor. You must be equipped with gloves and a mask that can protect you from these virus alien invaders.

This way, when your officials warn you that your city is in danger of invasion, you will be ready!

You must remember that anytime you are near other people, you **MUST** have your armor on when the alien virus comes to your city!



If you want to be a hero, you must protect yourself and everyone around you with this equipment. Be sure your parents use their armor, too!

Finally, do you want to know the strongest weapon you have against this alien virus enemy? Your home!

Yes, your home. It is your secret agent hiding place. Officials will issue a "safer at home" instruction or "shelter in place" or even a full quarantine so no one can go outside at all without special permission as in my city. All this depends on how many people are being attacked by the alien virus in your area.

The reason they ask you to stay home is to keep you safe. If you and your family do not leave your home, the enemy cannot get inside to you. You will be safe. Your family will be safe.

I wish more people in my country had done that earlier so the alien virus intruders did not spread so far.

I know this will be hard. I know you will want to go out. I know you will miss your friends, but we all must stay in our homes to destroy these alien enemies completely. If no one is outside, they cannot spread and harm other people. The alien virus invaders will die.



So, to keep you and everyone you know healthy and safe, stay home when you should! You could be a hero, if you want. But you have to really, really want to.

When your parents want to go shopping, remind them politely of the invisible virus aliens we must avoid.

Ask them if it is worth getting sick.

Ask them if it is worth making others sick.

Ask them if it is absolutely necessary to go.

If not, ask them to please stay at home for you.

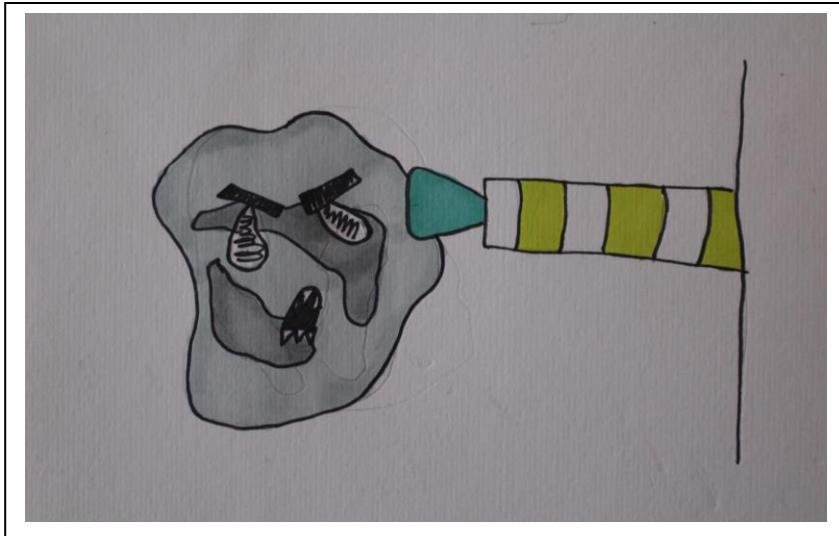
We can win only if YOU fight the enemy. The best way to do that is from home.

Stay at home and call us if you need help: together we are too strong for COVID-19.

That's it, little soldiers.

Go change the world and good luck!"

Now, Special Agent Anna is going to teach you tactical training. She will show you how to use your armor and weapons."



## 4 COVID OPS TACTICAL TRAINING

You look at your box. That stuff can kill virus alien intruders? You didn't know it was so powerful! You're excited to learn how to use it.

Special Agent Anna appears on your screen.



"You already know me. I'm Special Agent Anna, and I'm going to show you how to use your armor and weapons. It's time for your tactical training. Open your box."

You carefully open your box. There is a locked case inside.

“This is very valuable gear,” Anna says.

“Your password is COVID-ops.”

You enter the password and the case opens with a hiss. You see bottles of hand sanitizer and soap.

“Those are your weapons. These are the best ways to kill our enemy,” Anna says. “Now, stand up. I’ll train you how to fight.”

You stand up with your weapons.

“The alien virus travels on our hands. That’s why we must kill it on our hands. Carry your hand sanitizer with you all the time. Use it after touching things, especially if you are out. Also, wash your hands often. Wash them every time you come inside, before you eat, after touching money, after touching your computer or game controller, after touching doors, everything. I’m going to teach you how to use your weapons.”

A secret sink pops out of the wall of your secret base.

“Turn on the water,” Anna says.



You turn it on.

“Now, put soap on your hands. Scrub every part of your hands. The backs, the fronts, between your fingers, your thumb, your pinky. Scrub them long enough to sing Happy Birthday 2 times. The scrubbing is what kills the aliens, so make sure it’s long enough.”

You scrub and scrub and scrub.

“Now rinse. Use a paper towel to turn off the water and turn off the light. Remember, the alien virus lives on things you touch for several days, so it’ll just come back if you touch those things again. Everything you touch could have these alien viruses hiding on them because it also lives on things other people touch. So use your sleeve or a paper towel to open doors.”

You dry your hands with a paper towel, hold it in your hand, turn off the water and the light, and close the door.

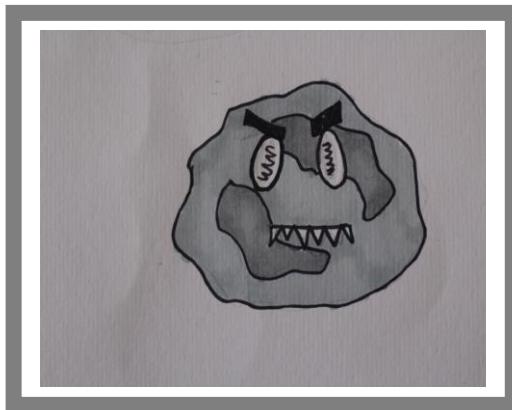
“You’re learning,” Special Agent Anna says. “Don’t forget this. It is a critical battle tactic and it will protect you. Now, let’s learn about your armor.

When the officials warn you that the alien virus is in your city, you must wear your armor mask when you go outside. If you have gloves, wear those too. That will help keep the alien virus from attacking you too easily.”

Agent Anna looks at you. “It’s time for a test. Are you ready?”

“Good,” Anna says, “Take a second. Imagine your eyes or nose is itching, but don’t touch your face. Can you do it? How long can you last? That’s what you’ll have to do on your mission. You can’t touch your face at all. Don’t touch your eyes, your nose, or your mouth. That’s because the alien can get on your hands, and then it will attack you when you touch your face. It’s hard, but if you can pass this test, you’ll become an excellent agent.”

You feel your nose itching, but you know you can’t touch it, so you ignore it for now.



“The alien virus also spreads by coughing and sneezing. That means you have to stay away from other people to protect them and you. You must stay 2 meters or 6 feet away from them, which is about the length of a bed. Stay at one end and don’t get close to other people—keep other people at the other end. Practice this.

Stand beside your bed and look and see how far the other end is.”

You stand beside your bed. Wow, is it really that far? “Don’t hug people, or give them handshakes, or give them fist bumps. Just wave at them to say hi! But remember, your coughs and sneezes can spread the alien virus, too. Do the crocodile cough. Bend your elbow like a crocodile mouth and put it over your mouth and nose, then cough into it! If you sneeze, do the same thing.

Sadly, you can’t go to any playgrounds right now. Remember, we must stay inside.

Most importantly—use wipes to clean your devices,

like tablets, phones, computers, and game controllers. The alien can live there, too. Or, you can bring it into your home. So it's important to kill it on your devices, too.

Now, I know this is scary. It's not easy being a special agent. Just remember, don't panic. If you're feeling scared, talk to an adult you trust about how you're feeling.

This won't last forever. Soon, we will win this war, and we can all go back to normal.

Now, it's time for your big test!

Show me:

1. How to wash your hands!
2. How to turn off the water and the light!
3. How to open doors!
4. How to wear armor!
5. What to do if your face itches!
6. How far away you need to stay from other people!
7. Which way you can say hi to people!
8. How to cough!
9. How to sneeze!
10. What you should do if you're feeling scared!

You feel tired. This was some intense training!

“Good job,” Agent Anna says. “You’ve finished training. You’re almost ready.”

You are now fully trained and equipped. You feel stronger. You’ve got knowledge, tactics, and weapons, and you feel more than ready to attack the alien virus invaders. You look like an agent ready to fight.

## 5 SADNESS AND SUPERHEROES

Commander T appears on your screen again.



“Welcome back!” he says. “You look much different than when you were here before. I want to take a moment and tell you the stories.

There's sadness in this battle against this alien invader virus.

This enemy is taking advantage of us, because we tend to act selfishly.

We want what we want. We insist on our ways. We don't want to follow the rules because it is different.

People can get very, very sick.

They can have fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, pneumonia, and some even die.

It is especially hard for older people and ones who are already sick.

The sadness is overwhelming sometimes. You may feel it when you watch the news. Be sure to talk to your parents if you need to.

Doctors and nurses working hard, risking and fighting to help people who are sick to keep people alive.

No rest. No help.

Hospitals are full because the alien virus invaders spread so fast to so many.

Patients go into Intensive Care Units where it is lonely sometimes and sad.

Solitude. Sadness.

At times they feel powerless.

That's what war is like.

But at the same time, there are superheroes every day in this war.

Police officers and soldiers help people follow the rules.

Retired doctors come back to help in the hospitals.

Entrepreneurs make the equipment people need.

Technicians inventing ways to use one piece of equipment for two people.

Tailors sewing armor masks for people.

Car manufacturers shutting down making cars to make respirators instead.

Restaurants making free meals for kids and doctors.

So many heroes around the world are stepping up and helping win this war.

Thanks to people doing unusual things, we are realizing we have the resources to win this war.

There was even a guy who wore a scuba diving mask outside and someone saw it and made a brand-new armor mask using scuba masks!

Some heroes come in tiny bodies!

A little girl in my country called the police station to read a letter of thanks. It touched the hearts of my whole country and reminded us all to be thankful for those who help us.

From her, we learn the power of gratefulness.

We are rediscovering how to lend a hand without any fears or worries.

We are rediscovering what it means to be human.

From an old priest who chose to not take oxygen so someone else could live, we understand again the meaning of a sacrifice.

We are rediscovering what it means to be human and take time to care about other people more.

Everyone is stepping up to help one another any way we can. But we must all act responsibly and stay inside when told so these alien virus invaders have no way to continue and that is where you come in.

It is temporary. We must resist until we win. And we will win. It is simply a matter of time.

It is a time, for you, as a generation, to rise up and take your place in history in this war against the alien virus.

Wear your armor, use your defense tactics, and most importantly, keep a good attitude about staying inside away from everyone else.

Your voice could change the course of history.

Remind adults of the rules and keep reminding them. Ask them to please stay inside. Let them know how much you care and let them know how important it is to do that. You've had more training than most of them!

You can be a voice to the adults and they may listen to the voice of a child in ways they won't other people.

My country, Italy, right this minute is the very center of attack. I see it every day. For Commander Liz's nation, and your nation, there is still time to stop or slow these enemy alien virus invaders. I want to keep other countries from going through what I am. That's why I'm asking for your help. Thank you!

Stay inside, stay safe, and stay strong, little warriors!

## 6 A MIGHTY ARMY

Commander Liz appeared on the screen again.



“So, now, my mighty army, it is decision time. Do you want to be a superhero, too?

You've met this alien virus and all its evil work thanks to Commander T.

I've shown you that you are valuable and you can do great things as a kid.

You've been given armor and equipment to fight it by Special Agent Serena, and Special Agent Anna

showed you how to fight it.

You've heard the sadness. You've heard the superhero stories.

Right now, you can step on the stage and become a superhero as well. Every time you choose to stay inside. Every time you remember the right way to keep this alien virus away from you and others.

Every time you help others make smart choices to stay inside. YOU are a superhero.



You, and millions of other children of the world, can make your mark on history.

The question is, will you?

Will you step up?

Will you be a voice to say stay home?

Will you do everything you have learned to help us fight this alien virus?

If your answer is yes, turn the page.  
You will find a COVID-ops ID card.

It will identify you as a trained agent of the COVID-ops team.

Don't sign your name on the card if you don't mean it.

This is not a game.

It's real.

We need you.

If you choose to accept this mission, sign your name on the card, cut it out and put it in a special place where you see it every day to remind you that you are an important part of saving the world.

Please don't forget what we've taught you.

It is an honor for all of us to welcome you as a COVID-ops special agent.

'Stay in! Stay safe! Stay strong!'

Let's go save the world, Special Agent!"



Welcome to the Covid Ops Team, Special Agent!

Cut out your Special Agent Card.

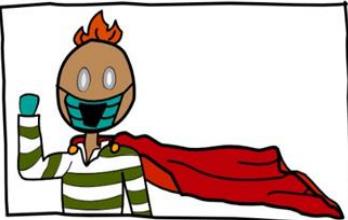
Carry it with you to remind you of your mission.

Cut out the next page and tape it to your front door.

You can email Commander T and Commander Liz  
at [agent@covidops.info](mailto:agent@covidops.info)

Visit us at [www.covidops.info](http://www.covidops.info) for information, a live book reading with Commander T and the team, and fun things to do while you fight the alien invasion!

Stay in! Stay safe! Stay strong!



# COVID-ops

## Special Agent

I will:

- Wash my hands
- Use hand sanitizer
- Wear my mask and gloves
- Stay inside
- Cover my coughs and sneezes
- Not touch my face

My name: \_\_\_\_\_





## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

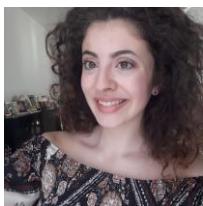
The Franklin and Tariello families joined forces from across the ocean to take on a secret mission, which was to train all children on how to be superheroes in the current war against COVID-19.



Ilario Tariello, Commander T, is a pioneer of new cutting-edge ways to aid in virus study using very advanced patented computer ideas and imaging that have been created over years of study. He has worked with virologists to bring image dynamics to their work previously unseen even by high-powered microscopes. He is an IT specialist. His big heart to help others stay safe inspired this book. His words capture this moment in time in Italy as well as his passion to make a difference in fighting this virus. [www.IlarioTariello.com](http://www.IlarioTariello.com)



Elizabeth Franklin, Commander Liz, or Mama Liz writes books and speaks to children, teens, and college students to empower them to greatness in the areas of time and success. She saw the potential in this mighty army of children, and how they could be superheroes right in their own homes. She wants to help America and other countries avoid the same fate as Italy. [www.lizfranklin.com](http://www.lizfranklin.com)



Special Agent Serena Tariello is in high school with an interest in architecture and music. She is a black belt in karate and her dream is to become an actress. She speaks as a teenager who is living in the closed-down cities of Italy. She has used her artistic talent to create these illustrations and bring life to our ideas.



Special Agent Anna Franklin is studying Communication Studies and Geography (meteorology concentration) at the University of Tennessee. She is an author, speaker, and researcher who wants to help everyone be more prepared for severe weather. She has written two children's series and dances. She brought her heart for preparedness into this book.

Do you  
REALLY need  
to go  
somewhere?